Zatanna
Bring Down the House
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DC
BLACK LABEL
17+
MATURE
BOOK FOUR

BOOK FOUR

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AN ALL-OUT BATTLE
FOR THE FUTURE OF THE DC UNIVERSE!

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ABSOLUTE POWER #4

DON'T MISS THE GAME-CHANGING FINALE FROM
MARK WAID and DAN MORA
AS A NEW ERA OF JUSTICE BEGINS!

OCTOBER

A weird party...
SO, WHAT DO I DO?

...ten years ago.
PICK A CARD, ANY CARD.
Gee, I DON'T KNOW, SO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM.
PICK A CARD, DUDE. IT'S NOT THAT DIFFICULT.
HEARTS.
HEY. Uh--
YOU'RE ZATANNA.
YEAH?
HEARTS.
OKAY! QUEEN OF HEARTS FOR TRENCH COAT.
ALL RIGHT, TRENCH COAT, WHERE'S YOUR QUEEN?
HERE.

Okaaay, TRENCH COAT'S FEELING CONFIDENT.
What the f--
FLIP
Pfffffft. STUPID MAGIC.
NICE TRICK, WEIRDO.
RIGHT? SO STUPID.
I'M DRUNK.
YES YOU ARE.
WHO ARE YOU?
THE JACK OF HEARTS, OBVIOUSLY.
What a card...
BLAM
CRASH
CRASH

Uh. YOU'RE... WATCHING ME WHILE I SLEEP?
YOU SNORE.
NO I DON--
--WHO ARE YOU?
I THINK I ALREADY ANSWERED THAT QUESTION.
THANKS FOR THE BLANKET.
ANY-TIME.
WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
CONSTANTINE.
BUT YOU CAN CALL ME JOHN.

YOU WANNA GO GET SOME CHOW?
YEAH. I DO.
CONSTANTINE.

Now.
Messages
Bud
you need a ride?
Judy
Holy
Some serious at the diner!!
There's a fighting some chick!!!
so
do you need a ride or not?
This city is so messed up.
Diner
CRASH

YOU KNOW THE TROUBLE WITH CASTERS? YOU WANT TO BE RIGHT INSTEAD OF SMART.
VOOMM
ZA
ZAAAPP
ZZZZTTILL
CRASH
YOU KNOW THE TROUBLE WITH RABBITS?

YOU'RE ALWAYS IN THE WAY.

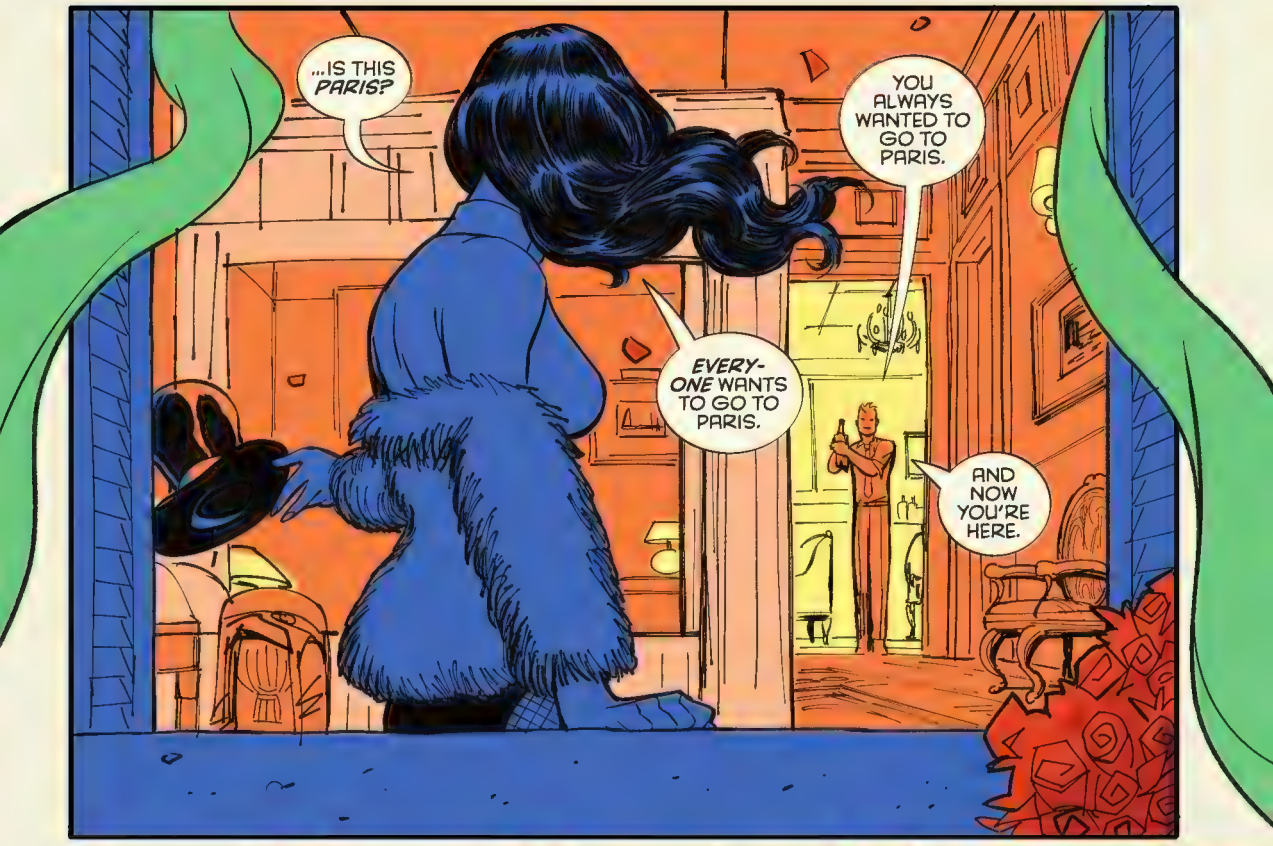
FATHOOOOMM

SWISH
ZOING
SIZZLE
CRUNCH
FIZZFIZZ
CRASH
YOU WANNA GET OUT OF
WHAT?
CRASH
BRON
HOLD ON.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FZZZZ
MUCH BETTER.
YOU ALL DO THIS A LOT? THIS FREEZING THING?
SEEMS RUDE.
WELL, I COULDN'T HEAR A THING WHILE THEY WERE FIGHTING. COULD YOU?
DON'T WORRY, THEY'LL BE FINE.

SHE THINKS I KILLED SOMEONE.
THE STRANGER? YEAH.
YOU DIDN'T.
FEELS LIKE A GOOD TIME FOR A LITTLE BREAK?
-Sigh-
YOU KEPT THE HAT.
DON'T READ TOO MUCH INTO IT. TOP HATS ARE EXPENSIVE.
DON'T I KNOW IT.
PIFFFF
OKAY, YEAH. LET'S GET OUT OF HERE.
POF
WHERE DID THEY GO?!

OKAY.

IS THIS...?


...IS THIS *PARIS?*
EVERY-ONE WANTS TO GO TO PARIS.
YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO GO TO PARIS.
AND NOW YOU'RE HERE.

POP

YOU WERE A VERY INTERESTING BOYFRIEND, JOHN CONSTANTINE.
YOU DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.

YOU EVER HAVE ONE OF THOSE DAYS WHEN YOUR ENTIRE TRAUMATIC CHILDHOOD IS CALLED INTO QUESTION AND--EVEN THOUGH IT'S ALREADY IN SHREDS--GETS RIPPED APART BY PEOPLE WHO WANT TO ACCUSE YOU OF DOING EVEN *MORE* HORRIBLE THINGS?
AND THEN SOME BUNNIES TELL YOU YOU'RE A POWERFUL WIZARD?
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE A *WIZARD,* PER SE.

IT'S BEEN A REALLY BAD DAY.
SOUNDS BAD.
I DID ALWAYS WANT TO GO TO PARIS.
I KNOW.

CONSTANTINE!
ARE YOU SO SURPRISED?
SEEMS LIKE YOU CASTERS HAVE ACCUMULATED A *LOT* OF MEDDLERS IN YOUR AFFAIRS.

YOU IN THE HABIT OF LETTING *KILLERS* GO FREE?
THAT SEEMS TO BE MORE *YOUR* DEPARTMENT.
ZATANNA IS A *THREAT.*
SHE'S *NOT* AND YOU KNOW IT.

BUT SHE *IS* MORE POWERFUL THAN ANY OF YOUR FELLOW CASTERS CAN IMAGINE.
THEY KNOW *EXACTLY* HOW POWERFUL SHE IS.
AND SO DOES *HE.*

WHAT THEY FEAR HAS ALREADY BEGUN. AND NOTHING THEY DO CAN STOP IT. ONLY *SHE--*

FWASH
Oh GOD--
EKAT EM KCAB!
FIND HER.
BLINK
FIND THEM BOTH!

RMMBBBLE!
WHERE IS THE STRANGER?
WE RAISED THE ALARM! SHE SHOULD BE HERE!
CRASH!

I MEAN, SHOULDN'T PEOPLE WHO PRACTICE MAGIC BE *WISE?*
OR JUST EASIER TO GET ALONG WITH?
IT FEELS LIKE THE HISTORY OF MAGIC IS FULL OF *TERRIBLE* PEOPLE WITH *WEIRD RULES* THAT DIDN'T EVEN STOP HORRIBLE THINGS FROM *HAPPENING.*
ANYWAY, ARE WE GOING TO GET A FRENCH BREAKFAST?
WHAT'S A FRENCH BREAK-FAST?
I DON'T KNOW. FRENCH TOAST? DUCK?
SURE.
I WOULDN'T WORRY ABOUT ANY OF THAT OTHER STUFF, BY THE WAY.
IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM FOR MUCH LONGER.
WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?
THEY'RE ALL ABOUT TO DIE.

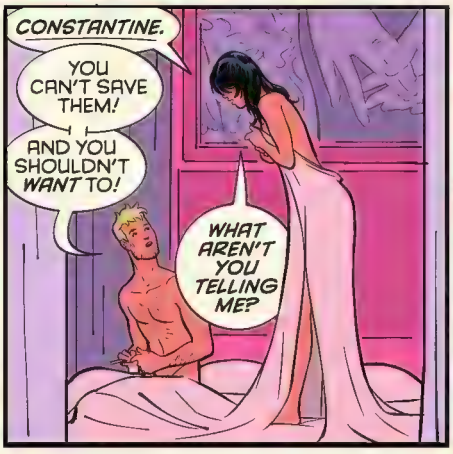
SO... FRENCH TOAST?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Food?
WHO'S DYING?

FIRST THE CASTERS. THEN ANYONE WHO PRACTICES MAGIC, I IMAGINE.
NOT *US*, OBVIOUSLY, BECAUSE WE'RE IN PARIS. WE'RE SAFE FOR NOW.

WHY ARE YOU NOT FREAKING OUT?
NOT A FAN OF FREAKING OUT IN GENERAL.
YOU DON'T KNOW THESE PEOPLE, ZATANNA. THIS IS A GOOD THING.

AND YOU *DO* KNOW THEM?
HOW DO YOU KNOW THEM?

...None of this *matters.*
WHAT DOESN'T MATTER?


CONSTANTINE.
YOU CAN'T SAVE THEM!
AND YOU SHOULDN'T *WANT* TO!
WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?

THIS WAS *YEARS* AGO...

A little more than ten years ago.
"... I WAS DOING MORE FREELANCE BACK THEN."
WHATEVER TOOK PLACE THE NIGHT ZATARA DISAPPEARED SEEMS TO HAVE DRAINED HER OF ANY MAGICAL ABILITY.
BUT IF YOU SENSE ANY REEMERGING POWERS--
--ANY ABILITY WHATSOEVER.
SHE WILL BE IN HER TWENTIES.
OUR PEOPLE HAVE A LOCATION FOR YOU.
GOT IT.
YOU MUST ACT...
...PREVENTATIVELY.

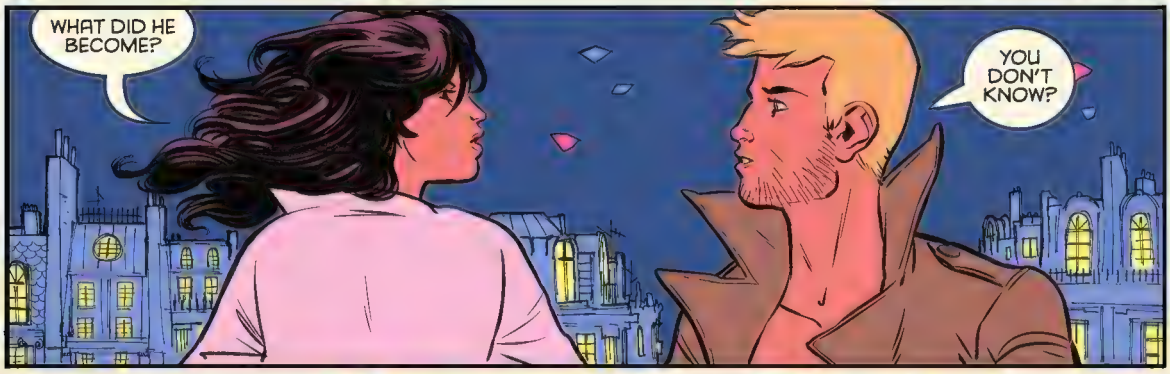
"THEY SENT ME TO KILL YOU.
"THEY WANTED TO BE SURE YOU WEREN'T *HIM.*
"OR *WORKING* WITH HIM.
"I KNEW YOU WEREN'T.
"SO I LEFT."
"YOU LEFT ON MY *BIRTHDAY.*"

Plot twist.
YOU'RE A THREAT BECAUSE NO ONE CAN EXPLAIN YOU, ZATANNA.
THE FIRST THEORY WAS THAT YOU WERE ACTUALLY POWERFUL ENOUGH AS A LITTLE GIRL TO KILL YOUR FATHER.
BUT THEN ANOTHER, DARKER THEORY STARTED WORKING ITS WAY THROUGH THE RUMOR MILL.
YOU'RE NOT TALKING...
I guess...
...I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED.
I should have known.
Z...?
NEVER MIND.
WHAT WAS THE DARKER RUMOR?
I'M ASSUMING THE BUNNIES TOLD YOU ABOUT THE TRANSFER OF POWER THING.
ALL MAGIC PRACTITIONERS ARE OBSESSED WITH IT.

"IT'S THE MOST DANGEROUS ACT.
"TO STEAL MAGIC IS TO OPEN YOUR HEART TO DARKNESS AND BE CONSUMED BY IT.
FWOSH
"THE MORE POWERFUL THE THING YOU CONSUME, THE MORE DARKNESS IT LETS IN."

"OF COURSE, THERE HAVE ALWAYS BEEN DEMONS, ALL *KINDS* OF DEMONS.
"THERE WERE DEMONS *BEFORE* ZATARA STARTED MEDDLING WITH HIS MAGIC.
"BUT NOW SOMETHING HAS BEEN UNLEASHED. SOMETHING *WICKED.*
"SOMETHING *HUNGRY.*"

THE SPELL YOUR FATHER USED THAT NIGHT, THE SPELL THAT MADE HIM WHAT HE BECAME.
IT KILLS EVERYONE. IT SHOULD HAVE KILLED *YOU.*


WHAT DID HE BECOME?
YOU DON'T KNOW?

HE'S A *DEMON,* ZATANNA. THE MOST POWERFUL OF ALL THE DEMONIC CREATURES.
SO POWERFUL HE'S CREATED A *DEMON ARMY.*

WHY DID YOU BRING ME HERE?

"THE WORLD OF MAGIC HAS ALWAYS BEEN ON THE VERGE OF WAR."
NO--!
NO!
GET AWAY!
I COULDN'T GET BACK...
...THEY BLOCKED THE WAY...
"YOUR FATHER LIT THE FUSE WHEN HE STOLE YOUR POWER."
This... is our fault...
Please don't go.
"AND NOW HE'S GOING TO *END* THE WAR HE STARTED ALL THOSE YEARS AGO.
"LEAVE NO ENEMY STANDING."

HE WILL WIN. HE'LL KILL THEM ALL. AND THEN...
AND THEN HE WANTS ME?
YES.
R.U.E. MAGLOIRE

WHY NOW? HE'S BEEN A NO-SHOW FOR YEARS.
I MAY HAVE BEEN ABLE TO KEEP YOU UNDER WRAPS FOR A BIT.
HOW?
A HAT TRICK.
LE GARE

YOU STILL WEAR IT.

C?
"MY ONLY BIRTHDAY PRESENT THAT DIDN'T SUCK."
Love,
The Best Boyfriend
You'll Ever Have

"I IMBUED YOUR HAT WITH A SIMPLE SPELL, DESIGNED TO KEEP YOU HIDDEN...
"...UNTIL YOU WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO DEFEND YOURSELF."
SERIOUSLY.
WHY DID I NEVER LOOK INSIDE THIS THING?
MOST PEOPLE DON'T.
I KNOW I BETRAYED YOU.
I KNOW I'M ONE OF *MANY* PEOPLE WHO LIED TO YOU.
BUT I NEEDED YOU TO STAY SAFE AND THIS SEEMED THE ONLY WAY TO DO IT.

So. I'M STRONG NOW?
YES, YOU ARE.
OKAY, THEN.
YOU KNOW, IT'S WEIRD. AFTER THAT NIGHT IN THE WOODS, I NEVER *FELT* POWER, EVER.
MAYBE THAT WAS SOMETHING HE TOOK FROM ME.
MOST DEFINITELY.
IT DIDN'T BOTHER ME, NOT FEELING POWERFUL. IT FELT... *SAFE.*
MAYBE IT WAS.
I USED TO HAVE THIS THEORY THAT THE BEST POWERFUL PEOPLE WERE THE ONES WHO ACTIVELY SHUNNED POWER.
INTERESTING THEORY.

I COULD KEEP YOU HIDDEN.
AND HIDDEN WOULD BE SAFE?
Ish.
I HAVE THE POWER TO STOP HIM.
IS THAT A QUESTION?
NO.
NOT A QUESTION.
CIGAM TEG YDAER!
IT TOOK A SEAT FILLER, SEVERAL BUNNIES, AND AN EX-BOY-FRIEND...
...AND SOME DEMONS.

BUT I GOT THE MESSAGE.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO?
THE BUNNIES SAID I WOULD.
WERE THEY RIGHT?
YES.
OLLEH, REGNARTS.
BLINK
Shit.

I'm sorry...
I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU.
THAT'S A LIE.

WHAT DO *YOU* WANT?
I WANT TO END THIS.
IT'S OVER. THEY'RE ALL GONE.
NOT YOU AND NOT ME.
HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?
I THINK YOU DO.
I THINK YOU DID FROM THE MOMENT I SAVED YOU SAVING ME AT THE CASINO.
I NEED TO FIND ZATARA AND DESTROY HIM. AND I NEED YOUR HELP TO DO IT.
ZATARA IS *DEAD.*
HE'S A *DEMON.* THAT'S NOT DEAD.
IF ZATARA COULD BE FOUND, WE WOULD HAVE FOUND HIM.
YEAH, I THINK THERE'S ONE MORE PLACE WE CAN LOOK.
COME *ON!*
TAKE MY #€@%$*€ HAND AND LET'S GO.

"THE WAY TO FIND MY FATHER IS TO GO BACK TO THE DAY HE *DISAPPEARED.*
"TO TAKE *BACK* WHAT HE TOOK FROM ME.
"MY *MEMORIES.*"
NOT WHAT I THOUGHT IT WOULD LOOK LIKE.
EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED.

OKAY.
LET'S GO KILL MY DEMON DAD.
NEXT:
The Devil HIMSELF

ALL IN

Oversize one-shot flipbook on sale in **OCTOBER**

Darkseid is.
Two universes.

Darkseid was.
One prophecy.

IT ALL STARTS IN
DC ALL IN SPECIAL #1

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"THEY KNOW EXACTLY HOW POWERFUL SHE IS. AND SO DOES HE."
And now, the moment you've all been waiting for! Put your hands together for Zatanna Zatara, the greatest entertainer in the crappiest hotel and casino in all of Las Vegas! Not that the ritzier spots on the Strip haven't come calling, of course. But since a devastating instance of magic gone wrong that forever changed the course of her childhood, Zatanna would much rather live out her days as a sleight-of-hand stage act than bother with real magic.
Yet while Zatanna might think she's done with magic, it certainly isn't done with her. And when a malevolent demon bursts through the center of her stage mid-act with the promise of more hell to follow, she'll have to dig deep into the fractured memories of her childhood if she hopes to summon the power to survive what's coming. Because despite Zatanna's best efforts, the past has a way of coming back to kill you...